

my colleagues in the Senate to join me and the other members of the Budget Committee when we report this bill out to hold it so at least we can reduce the deficit by \$34.7 billion. It is important to the future of this country that we at least take this first step. It is something we need to work hard on if we expect a prosperous future for our children and grandchildren.

My children are now grown and have good salaries. My grandchildren are now going to school. I want to see them have the same opportunities to grow and save their money and not have to face high tax rates because we exceeded spending in our generation. It is a challenge. It is a challenge, though, that we must meet. It is a challenge that we cannot put off, and the sooner we address this challenge, the sooner we are going to reduce deficit spending.

Mr. President, I think my time is about ready to expire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority has 1½ minutes remaining in morning business.

Mr. ALLARD. I will use a little more of my time. This is really important. It is an important time. I commend the chairman of the Budget Committee for working hard to try and hold down our deficits. I know he was very frustrated when the budget resolution was before the Senate earlier this year. I know he had some real hope of holding down spending even more than what finally ended up in the budget bill. I have supported him in trying to hold down the deficit. We do that by holding down spending.

I know he seems somewhat frustrated now because he has not been able to do as much as he wanted to do to eliminate the deficit. I think it is important that we stand behind the Budget Committee members, that we stand behind the chairman of the Budget Committee in trying to reduce the deficit.

Spending should not be running on automatic pilot. To keep this economy growing and keep it strong, we are just going to have to make some tough decisions. So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our chairman next week in a first step towards reducing the deficit.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3010, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and

Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, for other purposes.

Pending:

Sununu amendment No. 2214, to provide for the funding of the Low-Vision Rehabilitation Services Demonstration Project.

Sununu amendment No. 2215, to increase funding for community health centers.

Reed modified amendment No. 2194, to provide for appropriations for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Gregg amendment No. 2253, to increase appropriations for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program by \$1,276,000,000, with an across-the-board reduction.

Thune modified amendment No. 2193, to provide funding for telehealth programs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from Iowa and I have been conferring on our schedule this morning. We have a number of amendments lined up. The first amendment will be offered by Senator BYRD on title I, scheduled for 10 o'clock. We are pretty close to being on schedule. There may be some intervening business.

I want to take this opportunity to urge our colleagues to come to the floor and offer amendments. A cloture motion was filed yesterday with advance notice to all Members. It will be voted on tomorrow. Under the rule, Members have until 1 o'clock today to file amendments. At the moment, we have openings in the afternoon. So we urge our colleagues to come forward with their amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I concur with my chairman in that regard. The only other observation I make, we are not encouraging a lot of amendments. We are just saying if you have amendments come over and do them this morning or this afternoon so we can finish up the bill, hopefully, by tomorrow. I know there are some important amendments—Senator BYRD certainly has one coming up on title I—that we need to address in this bill.

Again, I am hopeful, if people do have amendments, that they will come over. And, again, Members need to know amendments have to be filed by 1 p.m. today to be considered under the cloture motion.

Mr. President, I understand that the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. REED, needs to make a modification to his amendment, and I know, also, the Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY, wants to offer an amendment before we begin Senator BYRD's amendment. Senator BYRD has been kind enough to yield to them a few minutes so we can get that done before he proceeds on his amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

AMENDMENT NO. 2194, AS MODIFIED

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to return to amendment No. 2194, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2194, AS FURTHER MODIFIED

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I send a modification of this amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has a right to modify his amendment.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

On page 158, after line 21 insert:

In addition to amounts appropriated under any other provision of this Act, for making payments under title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.), \$2,920,000,000, which amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from New Jersey, Mr. CORZINE, and the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. LIEBERMAN, be added as cosponsors to my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 2220

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 2220 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendments are set aside. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] proposes an amendment numbered 2220.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide stop gap coverage for low-income Seniors and disabled individuals who may lose benefits or suffer a gap in coverage due to the implementation of the Medicare part D prescription drug benefit)

On page 153, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

In addition, for making payments to States for the provision of coverage for prescription drugs under State Medicaid plans (notwithstanding section 1935(d)(1) of the Social Security Act) or under separate drug assistance programs to individuals who have attained age 65 or are disabled, and whose income does not exceed 150 percent of the national poverty level or who are eligible for medical assistance under the State Medicaid plan under a "medically needy" or other "spend down" eligibility category, including such individuals who are eligible for benefits under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act, receiving assistance under a State drug assistance program, or receiving coverage under an AIDS Drug Assistance Program, to ensure that such individuals do not lose coverage for prescription drugs or suffer a gap in such coverage due to the implementation of the Medicare prescription drug benefit under part D of title XVIII of such Act, and for making payments to providers of items and services under the State Medicaid plan, including pharmacists, community health centers, rural health clinics, hospitals, critical access hospitals, and physicians, for reimbursement of uncompensated costs associated with the provision of medically necessary drugs for such individuals, \$2,000,000,000: *Provided*, That a State